

Lawrence Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Regular Meeting, 7 p.m. — Public Library
August 19, 2025

Lawrence Public Library Board of Trustees met for its regular monthly meeting. President John White called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Board members present were: John White, Deanna Ratts Boyd, Jamie Cox, Bill Richardson and Joan Brian. Library Director Dianne Brumley was present.
Absent: Julie Mieure and Betsy Loeb
Guest: Steve Anderson

Oath of Office: Deanna Ratts Boyd was sworn in for her term as Board Trustee.

Approval of Minutes: Jamie made a motion to approve the July minutes, Joan seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Report: John reported that Dave Weger attended the Finance Committee meeting and assisted with preparing the FY 2026 budget. The budget includes a cushion for improvement projects. Hoopla funding was raised due to its increasing usage. Dianne noted the Friends of the Library are willing to help with the cost of adding automated doors to the building. A quote will be sought for the project.

Claims: Dianne noted the August claims include \$12,164 for the Secura Insurance annual premium and \$8,441.34 for the Illinois Heartland Library System annual SHARE membership fee. Jamie made a motion to accept the claims, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Director's Report: Dianne noted the final 2023 property tax check for \$14,441.21 had been received and deposited. Ten boxes of Lawrence County high school yearbooks have been shipped to Advantage Archives for digitization. Recent building improvements include repairs and painting to the lower-level bathrooms and the replacement of light panels. Dianne also presented Director's Goals for FY 2026, which include fulfilling technology grant requirements, developing a friendlier building assessment, organizing the community room and moving away from landlines.

Youth and Program Director's Report: Plans for the next Summer Reading Program are underway. Jennifer Buchanan recently met with area librarians to discuss performers for 2026. Upcoming events at the library include: the Friends Book Sale and Quilt Raffle Sept. 11-13, Debra Miller's portrayal of Laura Ingalls

Wilder at 7 p.m. on Sept. 17 and Jamie Poorman's presentation on the Orphan Train at 7 p.m. on Oct. 9.

Excess Furniture: Dianne said the library has 100 chairs which are no longer needed since large events are hosted at the high school. She requested approval to donate the excess furniture to the Lawrence County Arts Council. Bill made a motion to approve the request. Joan seconded. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business:

Personnel Committee Report: Jamie presented the Personnel Committee Report including the FY 2026 Staff Salaries and Wages Proposal. Recommendations included increasing salaries for Melissa Hodges, Kathy Highsmith and Chris Kelly from \$15.50 to \$16 an hour along with raising Erin Richey's hourly wage from \$15 to \$15.50. With the increases, total annual wages for part-time hourly employees would be \$69,290. The committee recommended raising the Library Director's base salary from \$47,751.50 to \$50,139.08, with an added \$6,000 insurance stipend. The proposal also included increasing the Youth and Program Director's base salary from \$30,407.93 to \$31,320.17, with a \$4,500 insurance stipend. Jamie made a motion to approve the proposal. Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Finance Committee Report: Joan presented the FY 2026 proposed budget, which includes \$312,000 for the General Fund, \$57,500 for the Building and Equipment Fund and \$32,000 for the FICA/IMRF Fund. Jamie made a motion to approve the tentative budget. Bill seconded. Motion passed. The budget hearing will be held just prior to next month's regular meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by

Deanna Ratts Boyd